



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

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APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE
LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Testimony by Representative Pam Sawyer

Before the Planning & Development Committee

On raised House Bill 5316

March 2, 2012

10:30 Room 2B

RE: In Support – Section 1; AA Requiring A Two-Thirds Vote Of The General Assembly To Enlarge Municipal Mandates...

Dear Chairmen Cassano and Gentile, Ranking Members Fasano and Aman, and distinguished members of the Planning and Development Committee:

I am writing in support of Section 1 of rHouse Bill No 5316 which would require a two-thirds vote of members in the Senate and House to allow a new mandate or add new provisions to an existing mandate to be approved. Given the tight fiscal situation and projected deficit we are facing this fiscal year as well the projected deficits we are facing in the out years this legislation is urgent and necessary.

For the committee's reference the following is the statutory definition of a 'state mandate' under Section 2-32b(2) - "State mandate" means any constitutional, statutory or executive action that requires a local government to establish, expand or modify its activities in such a way as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues, excluding any order issued by a state court and any legislation necessary to comply with a federal mandate.

We hear from our local officials from cities to small country towns everyday about how mandates are crippling their ability to operate local governments. The number of state mandates clearly is not keeping up the ability of our towns and cities to keep property taxes in check.

I strongly support Section 1 of HB 5316 and ask that the Committee vote to allow this bill to go forward. Thank you.